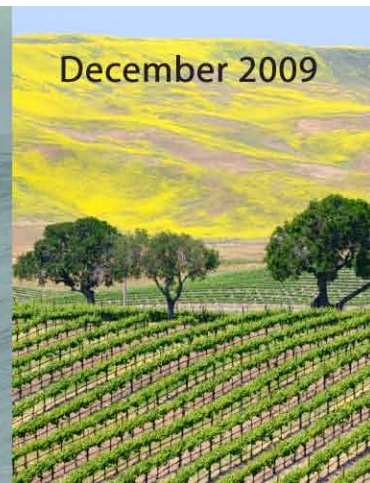




# NAVA *News*

Assemblymember Pedro Nava  
Representing District 35

December 2009



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## Key Nava Measures to Become Law Jan. 1

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### AB 242 – The Dogfight Prevention Act Of 2009

It is estimated that 40,000 people are involved in the blood sport of organized dogfighting resulting in injury or death to nearly 250,000 dogs (mostly pit bulls) annually. Spectators provide much of the profits associated with dogfighting. The money generated by admission fees and gambling helps keep this “sport” alive. Assemblymember Pedro Nava’s measure increases the penalties for spectatorship at a dogfight in California.

#### AB 1440 – Emergency Worker Provisional Ballots

Jointly authored with Assemblymember Sandré Swanson, this legislation allows emergency workers deployed under declared states of emergency during elections to vote by provisional ballot in the county of their service.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### AB 305 – Hazardous Material And Water Code Enforcement

Prosecutors now have the ability to seek jail sentences for polluters who knowingly make a false or misleading report about an offshore oil spill. Nava’s bill also extends the statute of limitations for violations of Hazardous Material Release Response Plans and Inventory related violations from one to five years to bring it into accordance with other hazardous material and hazardous waste laws in the same Division of the Health and Safety Code.

### HEALTH

#### AB 359 – Digital Mammograms

In the past, California’s Every Women Counts program (which provides breast cancer screening to low-income women who are underinsured or uninsured) has only covered the use of analog mammography technology, even though most providers have upgraded to digital. As a result, there are areas of California where women had to drive hours to receive free mammograms, using outdated equipment. Nava’s measure allows for digital mammography screening to now be covered under the Every Woman Counts Program when analog mammography is not available. This program is now in jeopardy! *See the article below.*

### CIVIL RIGHTS

#### HR 16 – Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act

Nationwide in 2007, law enforcement agencies reported that there were 7,624 victims of hate crimes. Of these victims, 16.6% were targeted because of a bias against a particular sexual orientation. HR 16 urged Congress and the President of the United States to pass and sign into law the federal Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would give the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute crimes of violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

### Also in This Issue:

**Nava Joins Women’s Health Advocates to Decry Changes to State’s Low-Income Breast Cancer Program**

**Nava and Community Members Take Action on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

**Assemblymember Nava’s Work Recognized by Numerous Statewide Organizations**

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***Our Best Wishes to You and Your Family During this Holiday Season!***

## Nava Joins Women's Health Advocates to Decry Changes to State's Low-Income Breast Cancer Program

Assemblymembers Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) and Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa), along with breast cancer survivors, health advocates and health organizations, signaled their alarm earlier this month at recently announced changes to California's Every Woman Counts (EWC) program, which would effectively shut the doors to breast cancer screening services for 1.2 million low-income women for the first six months of 2010.

The state also announced that once they begin screening new patients this summer, only women age 50 and above will be eligible – significantly reducing the number of women that will have access to affordable breast cancer screenings.



***Assemblymember Nava speaks to reporters at a recent press conference to protest changes to the rules which govern mammography for low-income women.***

The coalition held a press conference in Sacramento to highlight the changes and call upon Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to reverse the cuts to this vital health care program.

"This is a certain death sentence for many women," Nava said. "I find it unconscionable that state officials would arbitrarily prevent access to women under the age of 50 and cease enrolling those who are eligible. Statistics show that early screening and detection for all women saves lives and money."

"We fully understand the tough economic situation our elected leaders face and the difficult choices they must make," said Donna R. Sanderson, Executive Director, Sacramento Affiliate, California Collaborative of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. "Yet balancing the budget on the backs of our state's neediest women is a mistake. We should not deny women, who have very few options and limited resources, access to screening and treatment services that may save their lives."

Early detection of breast cancer is a key to surviving the disease. Unfortunately, women with low incomes who are uninsured or underinsured — like those eligible for EWC — are more likely to skip potentially life-saving cancer screenings, which leads to later diagnoses, larger tumors and lower survival rates.

Komen Affiliates noted that while 1.2 million women are eligible for EWC, the program only screens 270,000 women, about 77,000 of whom were under age 50.

## Nava and Community Members Take Action on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

In response to the growth of pot dispensaries in Santa Barbara County, Assemblymember Pedro Nava recently hosted a meeting of educational leaders, law enforcement, non-profit and drug-rehabilitation organizations, PTA representatives, business owners, and concerned community members to address the issue. The group ended up signing letters to the City and County of Santa Barbara requesting that moratoriums be put in place on any further dispensaries. The original city ordinance was written in such a way as to lead to confusion and uncertainty, Nava said.

"The meeting highlighted the growing concern of many different organizations and community members regarding the proliferation of marijuana dispensaries and their effects on our entire community here in Santa Barbara County," Nava said. "It is important that we stand united in requesting that a local moratorium be placed on any and all pending

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**“The school district is very concerned about the number of dispensaries clustered around our schools.”**  
**— J. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent of the Santa Barbara School Districts**

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and future permits for marijuana dispensaries until their impacts can be evaluated and appropriate regulations and protections for the community can be put in place.”

In 1996, California passed Proposition 215, the “Compassionate Use Act,” an initiative which allows for marijuana to be collectively and cooperatively cultivated for medical purposes by qualified patients and primary caregivers. However, the initiative did not legalize storefront dispensaries that sell marijuana for profit.

“The school district is very concerned about the number of dispensaries clustered around our schools,” said J. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent of the Santa Barbara School Districts. “Students are telling us how easy it is to get marijuana from the dispensaries. We need to protect our young people.”

Guidelines promulgated by the California Attorney General’s Office in August, 2008, and recent court cases have served to clarify actions allowed by local governments under state law. A number of cities and counties throughout California have already used these guidelines to institute moratoriums and/or ban marijuana dispensaries, including Oxnard, Ventura, Goleta and San Luis Obispo.

“The problem with the proliferation of dispensaries is very clear to our organization and those we help,” said Jack Clitheroe, Executive Director of the Salvation Army, Hospitality House. “We strongly support a moratorium.”

The Santa Barbara City Council heeded the concerns of the community and passed a moratorium, and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is going to review the matter at a board meeting early next year.

Nava said, “Supporters of Proposition 215 were attempting to permit appropriate use of medical marijuana by patients to relieve suffering from illnesses. Unfortunately, what we have been facing in Santa Barbara County has little to do with the suffering of sick people. In fact, the backlash to Santa Barbara’s current approach is threatening the legitimate use of medical marijuana and jeopardizing those patients who most need help.”

## **Nava’s Work Recognized by Numerous Awards**

**During 2009, Assemblymember Pedro Nava received the following awards and recognitions:**

**Michael Lonergan Memorial Award from the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club** for authoring HR 16, a resolution which calls on the U.S. Senate and the president to approve the Matthew Shepard Act.

**Legislator of the Year, Golden State Manufactured Home Owners League**, for efforts to get AB 566, the Mobile-home Park Resident Protection Act, to the governor’s desk.

**2009 Legislator of the Year, Planning and Conservation League**, for efforts to successfully defeat the proposal brought by Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP) to drill in state waters for the first time since the disastrous 1969 oil spill off the Santa Barbara Coast. Also for pursuing an oil severance tax. The award is given every year to a legislator who has made an outstanding contribution to California’s environmental laws and policy-making.

**Leadership Award, California Animal Association**, in recognition of AB 2281, to strengthen the penalties for being present as a spectator at a dog fight.

**State Public Affairs Committee Legislator of the Year, Junior Leagues of California**

**100% rating on California League of Conservation Voters Scorecard.**

**100% rating from the Consumer Federation of California** for his voting record on consumer issues. The scorecard rates legislators on their votes cast on key consumer rights bills.

**100% rating from the Congress of California Seniors** for efforts to protect senior citizens.

**100% rating on Equality California’s legislative scorecard** on LGBT issues.



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